

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SUNG HONG, aka LAURENCE HONG aka  
LAWRENCE HONG and HYUN JOO  
HONG, aka GRACE HONG,

Defendant.

Case No. CR-17-163-TSZ

**DEFENDANT SUNG (LAWRENCE)  
HONG'S LETTER TO THE COURT**

Sentencing: October 11, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Defendant Sung Hong, aka Lawrence Hong, respectfully submits the attached letter to the Court in support of his sentencing.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of October, 2018.

CORR CRONIN LLP

s/ C. James Frush

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s/ Sharon Damon  
Sharon Damon

To honorable Judge Thomas Zilly,

Your honor as I reflect upon my life for the past 16 months here in FDC SEATAC, no words can adequately describe the pain and guilt I feel for my crime. The hardest guilt to swallow is that I betrayed my friends and family members even my own wife with my deceit. If I may your honor, I would like to take little bit of your time to explain myself and what led this tragedy.

In 2007~2009, I served a 33 month sentence at FDC SEATAC for a wire fraud conviction. In there I thought of various things I could do to reinvent myself. But truth be told, the desire to still create an investment company and be a successful trader was always on my mind. However, I knew it was going to be impossible with a prior felony record. Then in the Fall of 2009, I met my future wife Hyun Joo. We quickly fell in love and got married in April of 2010. Even though she found out about my prior record, she did not judge me and said that everyone can make a mistake and that Jesus don't hold your past sins as long as you repent. She was the most supportive wife that a man can ever have. Even when certain people would distance themselves from me after googling my name, she would just tell me that God doesn't judge so be strong and move forward with our lives.

Towards the spring of 2011, Hyun Joo got an interview with BLACKROCK at the Seattle office. She was very pleased when she found out that she been hired as a supporting analyst. Around that time we also found out that she was pregnant with our first child Noah. When she informed her superior at BlackRock about her pregnancy, they told her to contact them after giving birth to our child.

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During that time I asked her to help me create an investment company. I convinced her that I am a competent trader and that this company will flourish.

Being an obedient wife and a supporting person in general, she decided to help me build my dream and not accept the career opening at BlackRock. She also asked her parents for the seed money to help me have more capital to trade with.

2011 turned out to be a great year for us. I made close to million dollars in five months. Looking back now, I think that convinced my wife that I am a good trader. We were also helping many missionary projects locally and internationally that year.

In 2012 and 2013, I also asked two of my friends to invest in the company. In the beginning they came in as an equity partners but later on decided to convert them as loans.

By 2015, my wife started to worry a lot about my plans and the outlook of the company. She knew that we had 7 million dollars to payoff to our two friends by 2018. Also my trading was not doing too well at the same time. But what shocked her most was when I admitted to her that I lied to her about managing money for wealthy clients in Asia. I pleaded with her and told her that things will get better if the company takes off.

The following year, I met pastor Sweet in Lancaster CA. through an evangelist that we were supporting. He heard about the company that I was trying to grow and decided to invest 1 million dollars with us. He was up handsomely by few months. Because of the growth in his account and the similar belief we had on the economic outlook, he



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asked me if I would be interested in coming to his prophetic conference in Aug. I took the invitation. Soon after attending his conference, the company quickly attracted dozen clients and the fund was reaching 10 million dollars in management. All of the clients were enjoying an outsized gains in their accounts all the way up to the 2016 presidential elections. While trying to recoup the losses for some of my clients, by summer of 2017 I was arrested and been detained here in FDC SEATAC ever since.

Your honor, I am deeply ashamed of the suffering that I inflicted on many people. Some were very close to me and the thought of causing them this much grief pains my heart. Because of my distorted ambition, I have turned many of my friends and family into victims of my crime.

As a father of 3 little children under the age of 6, I have also turned my kids into victims. Their immediate future is very uncertain because of not only my circumstances but their mother's also. And in a lot of ways, my wife who showed nothing but love and support got involved in my crime and now has to bare the consequences of it also.

Your honor I know I deserve no "easy" time like my last sentence. But please understand that I really wanted to create a company that will benefit a lot of people. If I could have one prayer answered by God, I wish that I can one day go out into the society and do my very best to pay off the restitution. Also I want to teach my children to never lie and be honest with themselves and their peers. I would want nothing more than to make up for the lost time caused by my incarceration. And finally if she will give me the chance, I wish to save our marriage by being a better husband.

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Finally I found out last week a devastating news that I am not the biological son to my mother and father. Furthermore, my mother revealed to me that I have 3 brothers and a sister that are all older than me. Someday when I am done serving my time, I wish to find them and perhaps build a relationship with my family.

Thank you honorable Judge Zilly for taking the time to read my letter. As a 47 year old man, I plead with the court to show me mercy sho that I may have one more chance to be a better man before my life passes by completely.

Thank You your honor,  
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